

JOEL BLACKMAN.

MAY 19, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. WARNER, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 4400.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 4400) granting an increase of pension to Joel Blackman, have examined the same and the evidence relating thereto and respectfully report:

This bill proposes to increase from \$12 to \$30 per month the pension of Joel Blackman, of Swanzey, N. H.

The bill is reported back with the recommendation that it pass.

The Senate report states the facts, and is as follows:

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 4400) granting an increase of pension to Joel Blackman, have examined the same and report:

This soldier enlisted September 15, 1862, and was discharged for disability October 27, 1863. He was pensioned at \$4 per month for chronic diarrhea from October 27, 1863, but was dropped from the roll November 1, 1882, it being claimed that the disability had ceased. He was restored to the roll April 30, 1885. In October, 1885, his case was approved for renewal and increase under the general law for chronic diarrhea and resulting disease of liver and stomach, paralysis agitans also being alleged as a result, but the medical referee did not accept the findings. Another application for increase was rejected in September, 1889, and pension was allowed at \$12 per month under act of June 27, 1890, from July 14, 1890, for chronic diarrhea, complete right inguinal hernia, and paralysis agitans, which rate claimant is now drawing.

The friends of claimant say that they can not understand why he was pensioned under the act of June 27, 1890, and a careful examination of the papers shows conclusively that his pension under the general law ought to have been increased many years ago to at least the amount he is now receiving. Doubtless his attorney found it easier to secure \$12 per month under the act of June 27, 1890, than to secure increase under the general law, and so did the soldier a wrong by changing his pension from under one law to the other.

Claimant was examined by several medical boards, all of whom found him suffering from many and severe disabilities. December 2, 1891, he was examined by the board of medical examiners at Rockland, Me., and received a rating of \$32 per month on his combined disabilities, the report closing in these words:

“Combined disabilities render claimant unfit to perform any manual labor.”

Had soldier been kept under the general law he could doubtless secure a substantial increase without coming to Congress, as he is now 87 years of age, requiring the constant aid and attendance of another.

The following affidavits fully explain the present condition of the claimant:

This certifies that I am acquainted with Joel Blackman, of Swanzey, N. H., and that I have attended him more or less professionally during the past year for rheumatism and other disabilities with which he has been afflicted.

He has also been troubled with disease of the heart, and on account of this he is able to make but little exertion without fatigue and shortness of breath.

He is also a sufferer from paralysis agitans, which has a tendency to grow worse as his age advances. He is unable to wait upon himself, and is "so totally and permanently helpless from his disabilities that he requires the regular personal aid and attendance of another person," and I believe he is worthy and deserving of an increase of pension to correspond with the above disabilities.

GEORGE I. CUTLER, M. D.,
Late United States Examining Surgeon.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, *Cheshire, ss:*

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th day of April, 1898.

JOSEPH HAMMOND, *Justice of the Peace.*

This is to certify that I am and have been for nearly two years employed by Mrs. V. W. Blackman in her family and have known Joel Blackman, Mr. Blackman's father, during that time.

He is 87 years old and is gradually losing his strength, having been for some time unable to care for himself. I prepare his food and usually feed him. He is in pain much of the time and is restless in sleep.

L. LOUISE PEASE.

SWANZEY, N. H., *April 5, 1898.*

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, *Cheshire, ss:*

The above-named L. Louise Pease personally appeared before me and made oath to the above statement this 5th day of April, 1898.

Before me.

ARTHUR A. WOODWARD,
Justice of the Peace.

This is to certify that I live very near Joel Blackman and see him often. He lives with his son, Rev. Virgil W. Blackman, pastor of our Congregational Church. I know said Joel Blackman to be a man of temperate habits, 87 years old. He is unable to care for himself, being dependent on his family and friends to go to bed or eat or do anything.

His condition does not improve. He has a very bad hernia, has chronic diarrhea and paralysis, for which he draws small pension.

ELMER J. BULLARD, *Postmaster.*

SWANZEY, N. H., *April 5, 1898.*

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, *Cheshire, ss:*

Personally appeared Elmer J. Bullard and made oath to the above statement this 5th day of April, 1898.

Before me.

VOLNEY WOODCOCK,
Justice of the Peace for the State of New Hampshire.

I, Volney Woodcock, live opposite the Congregational parsonage, where resides Joel Blackman, veteran, with his son, Rev. V. W. Blackman, pastor of our church. Said Joel Blackman is 87 years old; is in a helpless condition. He is now pensioned for "chronic diarrhea and paralysis agitans." His condition is believed to be permanently feeble.

SWANZEY, N. H., *April 5, 1898.*

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, *Cheshire, ss:*

The above-named Volney Woodcock personally appeared before me and made oath to the above statement this 5th day of April, 1898.

Before me.

ARTHUR A. WOODWARD,
Justice of the Peace.

We, the selectmen of the town of Swanzey, indorse without hesitation the foregoing statements of Volney Woodcock, Miss L. L. Pease, Dr. George I. Cutler, and Elmer J. Bullard.

Signed at Swanzey this 5th day of April, 1898.

N. C. CARTER,
A. A. WOODWARD,
J. L. STARKEY,
Selectmen of Swanzey.

I hereby certify that N. C. Carter, A. A. Woodward, and J. L. Starkey are the selectmen of the town of Swanzey, N. H.

VOLNEY WOODCOCK,
Justice of the Peace for the State.

This soldier is suffering a disability which, if entirely of service origin, would entitle him to \$72 per month. It is fully established that he has suffered from chronic diarrhea ever since discharge, and the medical examining boards accepted other serious disabilities as due to army service. Under the circumstances it seems but just to grant the increase to \$30 per month asked for in this bill, as at best the soldier will soon pass away, his present age being 87.

Your committee therefore recommend the passage of the bill.

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